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by Lorene Yue

More than a dozen federal legislators from both sides of the aisle are calling upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to scrutinize pollution produced by BP North America Inc.'s Whiting, Ind., plant.

Republican Congressman Mark Kirk and his fellow Illinoisan, Democrat Mike Quigley, co-authored the letter, which was signed by 17 other U.S. Representatives from the Great Lakes region and sent to the administrator of the federal agency.

"We request that the EPA undertake a comprehensive review of each pollution discharge at the BP facility in Whiting and other BP facilities in the Great Lakes region," the letter said.

The request was prompted by the recent EPA announcement that BP's Whiting refinery had violated the Clean Air Act from 2002 to 2006.

"It is my hope that the EPA takes swift action to review all of BP's pollution permits to ensure there are no other violations that have gone unnoticed," Mr. Kirk said in a statement. "No one argues against the need to expand production capability at the Whiting facility, but there should be zero tolerance for releasing deadly poisons into our air and water."

The co-signing Congress members from Illinois were Democrats Daniel Lipinski, Melissa Bean, Bobby Rush, Jesse Jackson Jr., Jan Schakowsky and Deb Halvorson, and Republicans Peter Roskam, Don Manzullo and Judy Biggert.